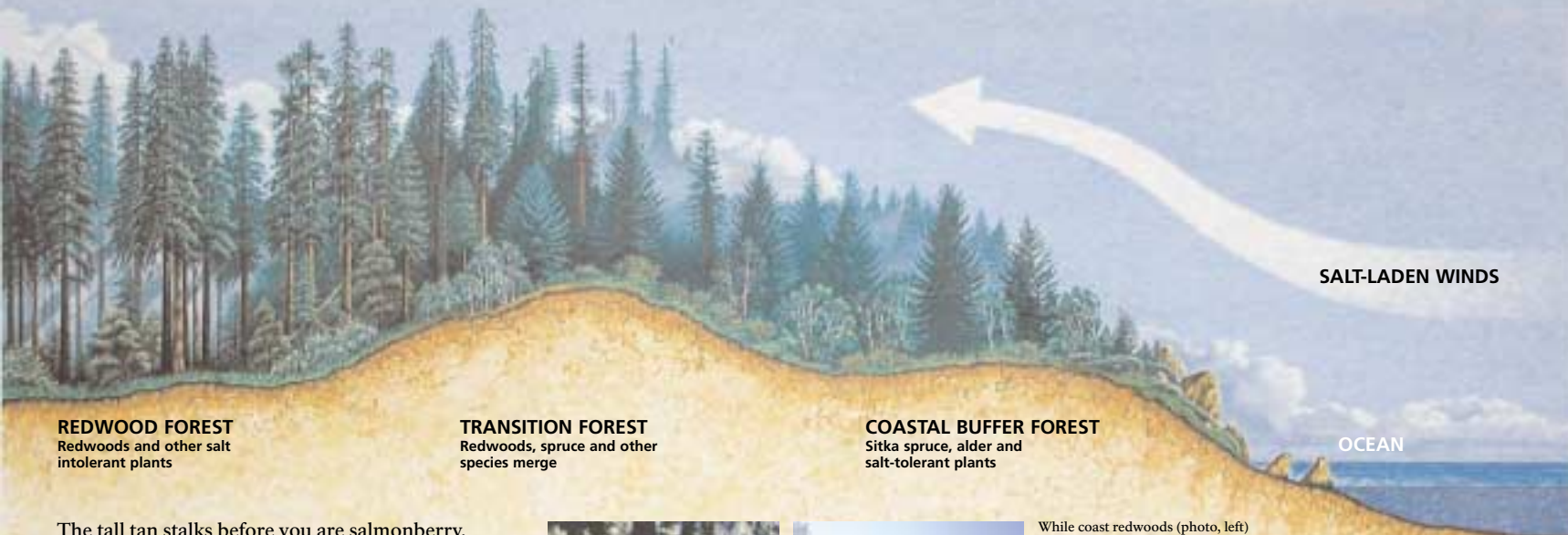


Surviving the Salt



REDWOOD FOREST

Redwoods and other salt intolerant plants

TRANSITION FOREST

Redwoods, spruce and other species merge

COASTAL BUFFER FOREST

Sitka spruce, alder and salt-tolerant plants

The tall tan stalks before you are salmonberry. They are a clue to the neighborhood on the right: Sitka spruce forest mixed with salmonberry plunges to the ocean. The bark and fleshy leaves of these species can withstand the drying effect of salt-laden sea winds. They and other species stand as a buffer for the salt-sensitive coast redwoods on the left. Here, notice how the terrain flattens and fills with such traditional redwood forest plants as sword ferns and black huckleberry. The meeting of Sitka spruce and coast redwood forests represents a community that has evolved collectively over millions of years.



While coast redwoods (photo, left) thrive in the rain and fog produced by the ocean environment, they cannot live next to the ocean where salt spray and wind suck moisture from plants.

Sitka spruce (photo, right) shield the redwoods from salt. Walk down the Coastal Trail, 1/8-mile to your right, and spy a red alder and spruce forest with a dense spread of thick-leaved salal hugging the ground.